



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/694,050	10/20/2000	Timothy Robert Weinstock	1017-6592	8576

21888 7590 04/11/2002

THOMPSON COBURN, LLP
ONE FIRSTAR PLAZA
SUITE 3500
ST LOUIS, MO 63101

EXAMINER

MORGAN, ROBERT W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2166

DATE MAILED: 04/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/694,050

Applicant(s)

WEINSTOCK ET AL.

Examiner

Robert W. Morgan

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-40, 45-46, 48 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,125,384 to Brandt et al.

As per claim 1, Brandt et al. teaches an Internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an Internet web site through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to one of a plurality of providers of said rental vehicle services, at least one of said rental vehicle service providers offering a plurality of specific geographically remote rental vehicle location at which vehicles for rent are situated, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby for any one of said plurality of said rental vehicle service providers.

These limitations are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form and a

Art Unit: 2166

database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are return to make reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Brandt et al. fails to teach the claimed rental vehicle reservation information for authorizing, processing and billing of the rental vehicle transaction.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the use of a rental agency's information form for the user that includes first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 38-42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include accurate user information necessary to authorize, process and bill the user for the rental vehicle transaction within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of facilitating the rental agency with collecting dependable and reliable information thereby assisting the process of billing the customers.

As per claim 2, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said Internet web site from any location offering Internet web access, and wherein said at least one of said rental vehicle service providers further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes a plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

These features are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. An authorized user

Art Unit: 2166

(business organization) browses the Internet for rental car agencies (second business organization) to make a reservation for rent a car that is available at a suitable location (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per clam 3, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said authorized purchaser and communicated to said authorized purchaser for authorization (see: column 8, lines 51-59).

As per claims 4-5, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said Internet web site. This feature is met by the ability of the authorized user to input and change information on the rental car agency's web site form regarding first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 22-42).

As per claim 6, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said software program. This limitation is met by the FlowMark application software output data container, which includes car rental reservation information (see: column 14, lines 6-10 and lines 53-64).

As per claim 7, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program further comprises a data base, said data base storing rental vehicle reservation activity for access by said authorized purchasers. This feature is met by the FlowMark application software, which includes a database (438, Fig. 4) to store information relating to the rental car process (see: column 11, lines 6-12)

Art Unit: 2166

As per claim 8, Brandt et al. teaches a rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results used to make a reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Brandt et al. fails to teach the claimed a software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to authorized purchaser for further processing.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the use of a rental agency's information form for the user that includes first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 38-42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include accurate user information necessary to authorize, process and bill the user for the rental vehicle transaction within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of facilitating the rental agency with collecting dependable and reliable information to assist the processing and billing of customers.

As per claim 9, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said software program. This limitation is met by the use of FlowMark application software used to rent cars by authorized user, who communicate to a vehicle rental agencies through a web site form information necessary to select an appropriate vehicle (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Art Unit: 2166

As per claim 10, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program is configured for allowing access through its Internet web site to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to said plurality of service providers. This feature is met by a user accessing the Internet using FlowMark application software to enter a request to a web browser for a web page containing vehicle rental information (see: column 11, lines 13-17).

As per claim 11, Brandt et al. fails to teach the claimed plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

It is common in the car rental industry for the car rental agencies to include their contracts or on their web sites a list of vehicle repair facilities. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include service providers with a list of vehicle repair facilities within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of allowing the user to have a ready available list of vehicle repair facilities to take care of minor repairs, thereby ensure that the user will have less down time and increase the time spend drive the vehicle.

As per claim 12, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed second computer system, said second computer system having a second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at a plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system. This feature is met by any authorize user accessing the Internet any remote location using FlowMark application software for purpose of vehicle rental, and also capable of communicating such vehicle rental

Art Unit: 2166

information to the vehicle rental agency (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7 and column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per claim 13, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7).

As per claims 14-23, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 2-11.

As per claim 24, Brandt et al. teaches an automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having a graphical user interface (GUI) through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to any one of a plurality of vehicle rental service providers including one having a plurality of specific geographically remote rental vehicle locations at which vehicles for rent are situated, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby.

These features are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information with terminal interface (150, Fig. 1) into a rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are return to make reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Brandt et al. fails to teach the claimed rental vehicle reservation information for authorizing, processing and billing of the rental vehicle transaction.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the use of a rental agency's information form for the user that includes first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 38-42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include accurate user information necessary to authorize, process and bill the user for the rental vehicle transaction within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of facilitating the rental agency with collecting dependable and reliable information to assist the processing and billing of customers.

As per claim 25, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers being enabled to access said rental vehicle software program from any location offering access to said computer system, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein, and wherein said second business organization includes a plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

These features are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. An authorized user (business organization) browses the Internet for rental car agencies (second business organization) to make a reservation for rent a car that is available at a suitable location (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Art Unit: 2166

As per claim 26, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed second computer system resident in said second business organization, said second computer system having a second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at the plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system. This feature is met by any authorize user accessing the Internet any remote location using FlowMark application software for purpose of vehicle rental, and also capable of communicating such vehicle rental information to the vehicle rental agency (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7 and column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per claim 27, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7).

As per claim 28, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said authorized purchaser and communicated to said authorized purchaser for authorization (see: column 8, lines 51-59).

As per claim 29, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said Internet web site. This feature is met by the ability of the authorized user to input and change information on the rental car agency's web site form regarding first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 22-42).

Art Unit: 2166

As per claim 30, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed first software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said first software program. This limitation is met by the FlowMark application software output data container, which includes car rental reservation information (see: column 14, lines 6-10 and lines 53-64).

As per claim 31-34, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claims 8-9 and 10-11 respectively.

As per claim 35, Brandt et al. teaches a computer software program to provide an Internet site access by a multi-level business organization to a plurality of service providers including one such service provider having an integrated business, said access being sufficient for placing and monitoring orders for delivery of services by said integrated business, said integrated business including a computer system having a business software program configured to automatically accept reservations for, and provide administrative control and accounting for, services offered and physically available at a plurality of geographically diverse locations.

These limitations are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. A user (multi-level organization) who wants to rent a car will access the WWW using a client workstation which is running a web browser (212, Fig. 2) entering the URL for the rental car agency and locate the home page site for the rental car agency (see: column 15, lines 22-37).

Brandt et al. fails to explicitly teach automatically accepting reservations for, and provide administrative control and accounting for, services offered and physically available at a plurality of geographically diverse locations.

Art Unit: 2166

It is well known in the car rental industry that rental agencies after reservation are confirmed on-line, have the capability to control billing and administrative functions surrounding a vehicle rental transaction such as the car availability at various locations. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include automatically accepting reservation to provide administrative control and accounting services within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of ensuring car availability and billing for the customer thereby expediting the process of make a reservation on-line.

As per claim 36, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed Internet site software program is configured to provide said access to said business software program for a range of functional interactions therewith. This feature is met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are used to make a reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per claim 37, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed Internet site computer software program is configured to provide access to an authorized purchaser of a plurality of said service providers' services, said authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization requiring interaction at a plurality of levels of said business software program. This limitation is met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car

Art Unit: 2166

rental information through a rental car agency's web site form, performed by any personal computer at home or business (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per claim 38, Brandt et al. fails to explicitly teaches the claimed at least one service provider having an integrated business is itself a multilevel business organization, said business software program providing communication of business information needed to effectively execute reservations placed for delivery of its services, and wherein said Internet site software program is configured to provide interaction between different levels of both of said business organizations.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the use of a rental agency's information form for the user and the use of FlowMark application software through Internet access to perform the process (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include at least one service provider and an integrated business or multilevel business organization capable of executing car rental reservation and communicating it between each other within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of enabling a large business to make car rental reservation for individuals within their organization, thereby taking advantage of any company discounts offered by the rental agency.

As per claim 39, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed Internet site software program is further configured to provide controlled access to said business software program, by third party service providers. Common Gateway Interface (CGI) of the FlowMark application software meets this limitation where the users must be authenticated by the web server application (see: column 11, lines 28-43).

Art Unit: 2166

As per claim 40, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed Internet site software is resident on a first computer system and said business software program is resident on a second computer system, and wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7).

As per claim 45, Brandt et al. teaches an Internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an Internet web site through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services may access a plurality of rental vehicle providers including at least one provider having a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said authorized purchaser and communicate a rental vehicle reservation to a centralized destination, said rental vehicle reservation having sufficient information for authorizing, processing and billing said rental vehicle transaction so that a rental vehicle transaction may be automatically processed thereby virtually without human intervention.

These limitations are met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are return to make reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Brandt et al. fails to teach the claimed rental vehicle reservation information for authorizing, processing and billing of the rental vehicle transaction.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the use of a rental agency's information form for the user that includes first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 38-42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include accurate user information necessary to authorize, process and bill the user for the rental vehicle transaction within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of facilitating the rental agency with collecting dependable and reliable information thereby assisting the process of billing the customers.

As per claimed 46, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to generate a report comprised of that users work load sorted by completion date (see: column 14, lines 6-10).

As per claim 48 and 50, Brandt et al. fails to explicitly teach the claimed Internet site computer is further configured to allow data requirements for said reservation to be customized and customization of menus presented to said users.

Since Brandt et al. teaches the ability of the authorized user to input and change information on the rental car agency's web site form regarding first name, middle initial, last name, origin city, state, start date, number of days and car preference of the user (see: column 15 lines 22-42), it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to include customization of reservation and user menus within the FlowMark application software for car rental as taught by Brandt et al. with motivation of providing the user with faster and easier way to navigate a frequently used web address.

Art Unit: 2166

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 41-44, 47 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,384 to Brandt et al.

As per claim 41, Brandt et al. teaches a method for providing an Internet site through which an authorized purchaser comprising a multi-level business organization of rental vehicle services may access a rental vehicle software program and make reservations for any one of a plurality of rental vehicle service providers, at least one of said providers being an integrated business organization with a functional integrated computer system providing access to a plurality of diverse geographic locations at which vehicles for rental are kept, said method comprising the steps of:

--the claimed providing an Internet site computer system having a software program configured to create Internet access thereto is met by the access to the Internet and car rental

Art Unit: 2166

agency's web sites with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37); and

--the claimed establishing a link between said purchaser's computer system and at least one of said providers computer system is met by access the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software and allowing an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form, performed by any personal computer at home or business (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37);

--the claimed Internet site software program being further configured to facilitate functional interaction between the software program resident on said rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser logged onto said Internet site software program is met by a user accessing the Internet using FlowMark application software to enter a request to a web browser for a web page containing vehicle rental information (see: column 11, lines 13-17).

As per claim 42, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed provider's computer system further comprises a main frame computer, and wherein the step of establishing a link includes the step of establishing a link between said authorized purchaser's computer and said main frame computer (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7).

As per claim 43, Brandt et al. teaches method for providing a GUI interface through which an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services comprising a multilevel business organization may access a rental vehicle software program resident on a rental vehicle provider's business computer system to thereby conduct rental vehicle business with a plurality of providers

Art Unit: 2166

including conducting vehicle rental business on at least one of said provider's business computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

--the claimed providing a computer system having a software program configured to create a GUI interface is met by accessing the Internet using FlowMark application software and an authorized user entering car rental information, with terminal interface (150, Fig. 1), into a rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are return to make reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37); and

--the claimed establishing a link between said two computer systems is met by accessing the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software and allowing an authorized user to enter car rental information through a rental car agency's web site form, performed by any personal computer at home or business (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37);

--the claimed GUI interface software program being further configured to communicate with a plurality of providers including facilitating functional interaction between the software program resident on said at least one rental vehicle provider's business computer system and an authorized purchaser logged onto said GUI interface software program (see: column 10, lines 56 to column 11, lines 12).

As per claim 44, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed computer systems further comprises a main frame computer, and wherein the step of establishing a link includes the step of establishing a link between said two main frame computers (see: column 4, lines 60 to column 5, lines 7).

As per claim 47, Brandt et al. a rental vehicle transaction system, said system comprising an Internet site through a computer, said computer being networked with a plurality of vehicle rental providers, at least one of said providers having an integrated computer system connected thereto, and said computer being configured to allow users to place reservations for rental vehicle services with any one of said providers. This limitation is met by the rental vehicle system that includes access to the Internet with the purpose of renting a car using FlowMark application software. This software allows an authorized user to enter car rental information through any rental car agency's web site form and a database searches is performed to locate car availability and the results are return to make reservation (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

As per claim 49, Brandt et al. teaches the claimed Internet site is networked through the Internet with said other providers is met by accessing the Internet using FlowMark application software to make car rental reservation with any rental agency's web site (see: column 14, lines 53 to column 15, lines 37).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

In related art (6,240,365) Bunn discloses a automated vehicle tracking and service provision system that communicates between the central controller and the vehicle.

In related art (For This Cyberspace Visitor, Once Is More Than Enough) Yenckel discusses a way to book flight, hotels and rental cars on the Internet.

Art Unit: 2166


In related art (Booking a room, vehicle for vacation via the 'Net) Chronicle Publishing Company provides online service to book airline tickets, a hotel room and a rental car using Travelocity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert W. Morgan whose telephone number is 703-605-4441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 703-305-9588. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

RWM
rwm
April 7, 2002


JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100